

# ***FISH and WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET***

**Meeting Date:** February 15, 2018

**Agenda Item:** 2018-2019 Hunting District Boundaries for all Species

**Division:** Wildlife

**Action Needed:** Final

**Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation:** 5 Min

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## **Background**

Season structures and hunting district boundaries are adopted biennially for most game species. This happens every other year between December and final adoptions in February. FWP is proposing several hunting district boundary changes to facilitate management or increase opportunity. Changes include (changes from the December meeting are highlighted):

Deer/Elk/Lion/Bear:

HD 130- Create Swan River Refuge Weapons Restriction Area for archery-equipment-only hunting of deer, elk, black bear, mountain lion and wolf.

HDs 204/240/260/270/ 281/309/312/590 – Minor changes

**Bear BMUs – 319/580/702 – Minor changes**

Antelope:

HDs 311/313/511/702 and Moose HD 441 – Minor changes

HDs 450/490 - Simplify boundary

Bison HD 395 - West Yellowstone Area – Create new and expanded boundaries for northern and southern portions and rename them Gallatin Watershed and Madison Watershed Portions.

All changes are further described in the Hunting District Boundaries Master List in the commission packet. All other regulations and descriptions of hunting district boundaries will remain unchanged.

## **Public Involvement Process & Results**

Comments were received during the Aug. 20 – Sept. 21 public scoping. Few specifically addressed hunting district boundaries. Public comment on the proposed changes ran from Dec. 7 through Jan. 24, and we received 155 comments, which are included in the Commission packet. Most spoke to wolf management near Yellowstone National Park and did not address the changes presented here. Comments that did speak to FWP proposals were in general agreement.

## **Alternatives and Analysis**

Proposals may be adopted as proposed, with adjustment, with additions, with deletions or no change from 2017 (status quo).

## **Agency Recommendation & Rationale**

FWP recommends adoption of the proposed boundary changes.

## **Proposed Motion**

I move the Fish and Wildlife Commission the 2018 and 2019 changes to Hunting District boundaries as presented by FWP, and that all other regulations and descriptions of boundaries will remain unchanged.